

## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Subject: Quarterly Report for 09-9655-0909 VHS DNR (4/1/2010-6/30/2010)

Dr. Varty:

The accomplishments made by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) during the third quarter (4/1/2010 to 6/30/2010) of our 2009-2010 cooperative agreement for VHS surveillance are summarized herein. Work during this quarter primarily involved completing all proposed field sampling and laboratory testing objectives. Proposed objectives involved collecting fishes for VHS testing from 27 waterbodies throughout Wisconsin; collections were to comprise 150 VHS susceptible fishes from each waterbody and were to be made before spring water temperatures exceeded 15.6°C (60°F). Efforts to accomplish these objectives were largely successful, despite staffing limitations which created some operational difficulties.

Twenty-seven waterbodies throughout Wisconsin were sampled and a total of 3,586 fish were collected for VHS testing. All sampling efforts were completed during a two month period beginning on March 24, 2010 and ending on May 27, 2010. Sample sizes of 150 fish were achieved for 11 of 27 waterbodies. Samples were <150 fish for 16 waterbodies, which averaged 121 fish and ranged from 44 to 149. A sample size of 150 fish was not attained for all waterbodies, largely due to staffing limitations and unfavorable weather conditions. Sixteen species of fish were sampled and all were VHS-susceptible. Water temperatures were ≤15.6°C for 23 of 28 field sampling events; for these 23 events, temperatures averaged 12.3°C and ranged from 7.6°C to 15.6°C. (Note: Although only 27 waterbodies were sampled, there were 28 field sampling events because one waterbody, Crescent Lake, was sampled twice, once on May 4 and again on May 19, in an effort to increase the number of fish sampled.) Water temperatures exceeded 15.6°C for 5 sampling events, which averaged 17.6°C and ranged from 16.7°C to 18.7°C; for these events, field crews were confident that average water temperatures were <15.6°C during the two weeks prior to sampling.

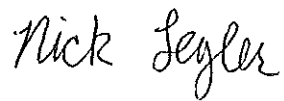
All diagnostic tests and laboratory results have been finalized and VHS virus was not detected in any 2010 surveillance samples. A total of 741 pooled kidney/spleen samples (5-fish per pool) were submitted to laboratories for virus isolation using tissue cell culture. The laboratories which conducted these tests were: 1) Micro Technologies in Richmond, Maine, 2) the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service La Crosse Fish Health Center in Onalaska, WI, and 3) the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison, WI (WVDL) and each lab respectively processed 427 pooled samples from 15 waterbodies, 186 pooled samples from 7 waterbodies, and 128 pooled samples from 5 waterbodies. A summary of all sampling efforts and testing results has been created using Microsoft Excel and is attached.

Staffing limitations created some difficulties for sampling efforts in 2010. Plans were made to hire 3-4 limited term microbiologists to facilitate sampling efforts, but only 1 was hired due to administrative hiring freezes. To accommodate for staffing vacancies, two private contractors were hired, state employees from other programs were recruited, and hired VHS staff regularly worked >40 hours per week.

Considerable expenses were incurred during this quarter and largely involved travel costs (i.e., gas, lodging, meals) to pick up and process fish and shipping and laboratory fees for diagnostic testing. Certified financial reports (i.e., SF-425 and SF-270), which summarize all expenses, will be submitted to you by our finance staff.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the accomplishments summarized in this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nick Legler".

Nicholas Legler  
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